EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dico Halajian on 11/12.

The application has been amended as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) An apparatus having a user interface assisting in searching for information from items of an ordered list in a data array, the items having descriptions, the apparatus comprising:

a display;

an array scroller for sequentially displaying on the display the descriptions from the ordered list on the user interface responsive to user actuation; and

a helper character-generator operative to display a helper character representative of a portion of a description of an item in the ordered list being displayed, the displaying of the helper character being responsive to continued user actuation of the array scroller, wherein the helper character is displayed in a size which is larger ~~that~~ than a size of the descriptions, wherein a change in the size is made based on a scrolling speed that is responsive to the continued user actuation.

2.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the helper character shows additional helper characters by deactivating the array scroller, then reactivating the array scroller.

3.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the helper character is displayed in a determined location on a GUI display.

4.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least one of a handheld device, a mobile telephone, and an Internet-enable device with a browser.

5.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the descriptions are selected from at least one of alpha-numerical characters, pictographs, letters in a name, and prefixes in telephone numbers.

6.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data array is multi-dimensional.

7.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the helper character-generator renders a helper character comprising at least one of an audio feedback, a video feedback, and a tactile feedback.

8.(Currently Amended) A method for enabling a user to scroll through information in items of an ordered list in a data array accessible through a data processing device in a data processing environment, the items having descriptions, the method comprising the acts of:

enabling the user to scroll sequentially the descriptions from the ordered list, in response to the user actuating the data processing device;

generating a helper character representative of a portion of a description of an item in the ordered list being displayed; and

displaying the helper character ~~on a display~~ in response to the user ~~to continue~~ continuing to actuate the data processing device, wherein the helper character is displayed on the display in a size which is larger ~~that~~ than a size of the descriptions, and wherein a change in the size is made based on a scrolling speed that is responsive to the continuing actuation.

9.(Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the data processing environment comprises a distributed environment.

10.(Currently Amended) ~~Software for being installed on~~ A computer readable medium containing a set of instructions when executed by an information processing apparatus~~, wherein the software renders~~ cause the information processing apparatus ~~operative~~ to display a helper character on a display representative of a portion of a description of an item in an ordered list being displayed, the display of the helper character being responsive to continued user actuation of the apparatus, wherein the helper character is displayed in a size which is larger ~~that~~ than a

size of descriptions of items of the ordered list, and wherein a change in the size is made based

on a scrolling speed that is responsive to the continued user actuation.

11.(Currently Amended) A client-server configuration comprising a client and a server,

wherein:

the server provides user-access to an ordered list of information items having

descriptions; and

the client is enabled to interact with the server, the server controlling the client to display

a helper character representative of a portion of a description of an item in the ordered list being

displayed, the display of the helper character being responsive to continued user actuation of the

client, wherein the helper character is displayed in a size which is larger ~~that~~ than a size of the

descriptions, and wherein a change in the size is made based on a scrolling speed that is

responsive to the continued user actuation.

12.(Previously Presented) The client-server configuration of claim 11, wherein the client

comprises at least one of a handheld device, a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a wireless

telephone handset, a portable media-playing device, and a cell phone.

13.(Currently Amended) An information storage medium comprising:

an ordered list of information items having descriptions;

at least one respective helper character corresponding with and representative of a portion

of a description of an item in the ordered list being displayed on a display, wherein displaying of

the helper character is responsive to continued user actuation of a scroller, ~~and~~ wherein the

helper character is displayed in a size which is larger ~~that~~ than a size of the descriptions, and

wherein a change in the size is made based on a scrolling speed that is responsive to the

continued user actuation; and

control software for controlling a rendering of a specific one of the helper characters

during the actuation of the scroller of the corresponding one of the items.

14.(Previously Presented) The information storage medium of claim 13, wherein the

ordered list comprises at least one a sequence of alpha-numeric characters, a sequence of

pictographs, a sequence of images, a sequence of sounds.

15.(Previously Presented) The information storage medium of claim 14, wherein the

rendering of the specific one of the helper characters comprises at least one of an audio feedback,

a video feedback, and tactile feedback.

16.(Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus having a user interface assisting in

searching for information from an ordered list in a data array, the apparatus comprising:

a display;

an array scroller adapted to scroll the information at a speed that is responsive to user

actuation; and

a helper character-generator, actuated by continued user actuation of the array scroller,

the helper character generator being operative to display on the display a helper character that

represents a scrolling position in the list and at least some of the information corresponding to

the scrolling position, wherein the helper character is displayed in a size which is larger than a

size of information, and wherein a change in the size is made based on a scrolling speed that is

responsive to the continued user actuation.

17.(Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the

descriptions include alphabetical entries, and the helper character consist of a first alphabetical

character of the description of the item in the ordered list being displayed on a display, and

wherein deactivating and reactivating the array scroller adds to the display a next alphabetical

character of the description.

18.(Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the helper

character is displayed alphabetical without skipping letters not included portions of the

descriptions of the ordered list.

19.(Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus of claim 16, wherein the helper

character is displayed in a size which is larger that a size of other characters of the information of

the ordered list.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art either alone or in combination doesn't show or teach "a helper character-generator operative to display a helper character representative of a portion of a description of an item in the ordered list being displayed, the displaying of the helper character being responsive to continued user actuation of the array scroller, wherein the helper character is displayed in a size which is larger ~~that~~ than a size of the descriptions, wherein a change in the size is made based on a scrolling speed that is responsive to the continued user actuation" in combination with other features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SIMON KE whose telephone number is (571)272-4062. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and Alternate Fridays 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dennis Chow can be reached on (571) 272-7767. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Peng   Ke/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2174